



MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 6, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff:

I hope that this letter finds you well and enjoying your weekend. I am writing with some important reminders regarding the use of school property outside of school hours, especially as they may relate to sledding at Beechwood School.

While I am pleased that families and students are finding opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the recent snowfall, I have received multiple reports over the past two days of children and adults not wearing masks or following social distancing protocols while on school property.

I would like to remind the school community of the protocols that are in place for all students, staff, families, and organizations when they are on school grounds and around other individuals, regardless of whether or not school is in session:

- Face masks are to be worn by all individuals
- Social distancing protocols should be maintained at all times
 - Social distancing, as defined by the CDC includes: Staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.
 - Ensuring social distancing will also help to minimize the potential of you or your child being identified as a “close-contact”.
 - Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period.
- School property is closed for outside use while students are still in session.
 - Specifically, this means that Beechwood School is NOT open to outside use until 3:30 on in-person school days and 12:45 on weather-related remote days.
 - Students and others should not throw snowballs or gather near staff vehicles as we do not want there to be any opportunity for accidents to occur.
- Use of school property at any time outside of school hours is at one's own risk.

The Mountainside School District’s priority is to keep schools open and safe for all students and staff. We have had amazing success on this front throughout the year so far by working together towards this goal. I ask that you, as a community, continue to do your part to support this mission by following the protocols outlined above whenever you are present or enjoying time on our property.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work through these changing and challenging times together.

Janet Walling